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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/832,190	04/11/2001	Toshihumi Takada	04208.0101	1562

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Finnegan, Hnderson, Farabow,
Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.
1300 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3315

EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

P-5

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/832,190	TAKADA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Edwin A. León	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On Page 3, subtitle should read –SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION–. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites the limitations "the urging force" in Line 17, and "the card insertion operation" in Line 22. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over David et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,890,920) in view of Choi (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,012). With regard to Claim 1, David et al. discloses a card connector the card connector comprising: an eject mechanism having an eject member (48), and a locking piece guide means (126). See Fig. 1.

David et al. doesn't show the locking portion engaging a recess in the card and a stationary portion fixed in the eject member.

Choi discloses a connector having an elastic locking piece (21,230,22) with a locking portion (210) engaging a recess (12) in the card (10) and a stationary portion (231). See Figs. 3-6.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the card connector of David et al. by including a locking portion engaging a recess in the card and a stationary portion as taught in Choi to secure the card within the connector after forming data and electrical connections.

With regard to Claim 2, David et al. discloses the locking piece guide means (126) having a protruding portion (128); and a guide wall (formed by 42,43) formed in a connector housing (10) and having a tapered surface to guide the protruding portion (128) as the eject member (48) moves in the card insertion or eject direction. See Fig. 1.

With regard to Claims 3 and 4, Choi discloses the elastic locking piece (21,230,22) being provided on a side wall portion (43) of the connector housing (40) and

urged in a direction that presses against the side surface of the card (10), the protruding portion (210) of the elastic locking piece (21,230,22) projects upwardly or downwardly of the connector housing (40), and the tapered surface of the guide wall (43) is inclined with respect to the side surface of the inserted card (10). See Figs. 3-6.

With regard to Claim 5, Choi discloses the elastic locking piece (21,230,22) being provided on the side wall portion (43) of the connector housing (40) so that it can be displaced width ways of the card (10), and wherein the locking piece guide means (230) is a member projecting from the connector housing (40) to engage a part of the elastic locking piece (21,230,22) to elastically deform the elastic locking piece (21,230,22) during the card eject operation. See Figs. 3-6.

With regard to Claim 6, Choi discloses the locking portion (210) of the elastic locking piece (21,230,22) being shaped virtually like a hook. See Figs. 3-6.

With regard to Claim 7, Choi discloses when a second card without the recess is inserted, a locking portion (212) of the elastic locking piece (21,230,22) works as a braking piece that presses against a wall surface of the second card to apply to the card braking force acting in a direction opposing card retraction. See Figs. 3-6.

With regard to Claim 8, Choi discloses the connector housing (40) being formed with a space that prevents the protruding portion (128) from interfering with other members when a second card without the recess is inserted. See Figs. 3-6.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Soh (U.S. Patent No. 5,655,918), Abe (U.S. Patent No. 5,533,906), Koike (U.S. Patent No. 5,197,894), Hara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,162,075), Kuo (U.S. Patent No. 6,159,027), Niitsu (U.S. Patent No. 6,139,340), Hara (U.S. Patent No. 6,120,309), Chen (U.S. Patent No. 6,106,313), Hanyu (U.S. Patent No. 6,234,813), Tung (U.S. Patent No. 6,210,187), Yu (U.S. Patent No. 6,200,148), Okubo (U.S. Patent No. 5,145,389), Spickler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,967,810), Yasumi (U.S. Patent No. 5,923,541), Kajiura (U.S. Patent No. 5,899,763), Lai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,095,834), Tung (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,984), Nishioka (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,365), Kajiura (U.S. Patent No. 5,899,763) and Kimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,695,351) disclose card connectors having eject mechanisms and elastic locking pieces.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

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308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

EAL
November 14, 2001